

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 21 to page 9, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

Similarly, in a preferred embodiment, the FFE 140 is ready to receive packet header information 171 from PPE 120 each two clock cycles. It may occur, for any individual incoming packet 170, that the FFE 140 takes much longer than two clock cycles to decide associated packet forwarding information 173. However, the FFE 140 should be ready to receive one new set of packet header information 171 from PPE ~~140~~ 120 at least that often.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 5-8, with the following amended paragraph:

Similarly, after determining an output interface for the packet 170, the FFE 140 forwards an identifier for the output interface 112 ~~[[at]]~~ to which the packet 170 ~~was received~~ is to be sent to the ~~input~~ output access CAM ~~146~~ 147, to determine if access is permitted for the packet 170 at that output interface 112.